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Kleindienst Is Confirmed By 64-19 Vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid clashing cries of politics and cover-up, the Senate confirmed by a 64-19 vote Thursday Richard G. Kleindienst's nomination as attorney general.

The nomination of the conservative Arizona lawyer to succeed John N. Mitchell in the Cabinet post was submitted by President Nixon on Feb. 15.

It became enmeshed in a controversy over the Justice Department's out-of-court settlement last year of three antitrust cases against International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.

In the final debate before the vote, liberal Democrats contended an effort to get the full story on whether a political deal was involved in the settlement had been stymied.

But Republicans retorted that the Democrats were playing election-year politics and that no evidence had been produced of any improper conduct by Kleindienst.

Immediately after the vote, Kleindienst said he was "humbled and flattered" by the Senate action.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity now to go back to work as attorney general of the United States without the interruption and intervention of this kind of situation," he said.

Columnist Jack Anderson,

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whose allegations prompted the investigation, called the Senate vote "an exercise in cynicism."

"Most Republicans and Democrats alike ignored the evidence," he said. "No wonder the American people are turning sour on our political system."

Later, the Senate confirmed by 83 to 0 the nomination of another Cabinet member, George P. Shultz, to be secretary of the Treasury. There had been no organized opposition.